

# SIGHTS and SOUNDS

SEPTEMBER 2024



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

— NEWSLETTER —

# *in this issue...*

**PAGE**  
4

**Department of Art & Design**  
*Academic Artistry*

**PAGES**  
5-6

**Department of Communication & Media**  
*Comm-UNITY: Bringing Communication Majors Together*

**PAGE**  
7-8

**Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education**  
*Educating Across Borders*

**PAGE**  
9

**Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music**  
*Meet Dr. Michael Bartnik*

**PAGE**  
10

**Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences**  
*From Classroom to Clinic*

**PAGE**  
11-13

**Department of Theatre & Dance**  
*Set the Stage*

**PAGE**  
14

**Dishman Art Museum**  
*New Perspectives*

**PAGE**  
15

**KVLU**  
*Behind the Mic*

**PAGE**  
16

**Can't Miss This!**



I am excited as we embark on a new and wonderful academic year! I'm Golden Wright, and it is an honor to serve as the Dean of the College of Fine Arts & Communication at Lamar University. Our college is a vibrant hub of creativity and talent, where our students, staff, and faculty excel in a wide range of disciplines. Through this newsletter, we proudly celebrate the remarkable achievements of our community in the fields of fine arts and communication.

Our college is home to an exceptional student body, passionately pursuing careers in artistry, speech-language pathology, interpretation, teaching, performance, and more. Student success is at the heart of everything we do at the College of Fine Arts & Communication. In this issue, we are excited to showcase our dynamic and talented students and faculty, representing the diverse disciplines within our college.

Central to our mission is the strong bond we cultivate among students, faculty, and staff, all connected by the shared foundation of communication. Each department within our college harnesses the power of communication in unique ways, fueling their successes. Whether it's through the diverse mediums of television, radio, social media, and newspapers, the storytelling of musicians through voice and instruments, or the impactful work in speech and hearing sciences that enhances communication skills and improves quality of life. From the empowering field of deaf studies, training essential translators, to the immersive experiences in theatre and dance that offer an escape through movement and text, and the visual eloquence of art that captures moments and places, transporting us to new realms and inspiring our imaginations.

We hope this newsletter highlights the vast opportunities our College offers. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our community, which generously provides scholarships, new equipment, and invaluable learning experiences. Thank you for your continued support.

Here's to an incredible academic year ahead!

“THE BEST KEPT SECRET...”



**Golden Wright**  
College of Fine Arts & Communication, Dean



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

Department of Art & Design

# ACADEMIC *ARTISTRY*



The Department of Art & Design kicks off the 2024-2025 academic year with their Faculty Exhibition. In this show, you'll be able to see artworks created by the Art & Design Faculty and Staff. These include photography works by Keith Carter and Prince V. Thomas, sculptures by Kurt Dyrhaug, paintings by Donna M. Meeks, Xenia Fedorchenko, and Jacob Miller, drawings by Christopher Troutman and Eric Johnston, research posters by Stephanie Chadwick and Julia Fischer, and other works created by Sunni Forcier, Joana Hyatt, Emily Lewis-Zazzaro, and Jennifer G. Thompson.

Jennifer G. Thompson, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design, will be participating in the show for the first time this year. *"I am thankful to exhibit with such outstanding colleagues,"* says Thompson.

Keith Carter, Endowed Walles Chair in Fine Arts and Professor of Photography is also participating in this exhibition. *"The 2024 Faculty Exhibition is a terrific, eclectic collection of painting, photography, sculpture, graphic design, writing, and drawing. It's always been one of my favorite exhibitions of the year. The Dishman Art Museum is one of the true crown jewels of our campus,"* says Carter.

Don't miss the chance to explore the creative talents of our Art & Design educators, where you'll discover a diverse array of works that inspire and engage. This exhibition is on display until September 7th at the Dishman Art Museum.



# *Comm*-UNITY

BUILDING BONDS BETWEEN COMMUNICATION MAJORS



READ MORE ON PAGE 6...



Last week, the Department of Communication & Media hosted their Second Annual COMM-Unity event.

COMM-Unity is geared towards all Communications majors and minors but is especially beneficial for the department's incoming students and transfer students. During this event students get a chance to meet the faculty, learn more about the Department and see how they can get involved around campus. LUTV, KVLU, University Press, Red Beak Productions and Scholarships and Internships set up tables around the event to discuss all the ways students can participate in their areas.

*"We want our students to be as well-rounded as possible. Not only while they're here with us, but so they can be ready for any type of job in the Communication field post-graduation,"* says Sheila Springer, Instructor. The Department also hosts multiple breakout sessions for

all focuses within the Department, including Communication Studies, Public Relations and Advertising, Broadcasting, Film and Journalism. In these breakout sessions, students get to learn more about their individual disciplines.

After the educational sessions conclude, students get to enjoy lunch and lawn games while they interact with the faculty, staff and their peers.





# EDUCATING *across* BORDERS

DR. ZANTHIA SMITH GIVES HER FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT OF THE STUDY ABROAD TRIP TO NOVA SCOTIA







The adventure began early Monday morning, July 29, 2024. Students arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia harried but healthy. After finding their lodging, students explored the Halifax Boardwalk. The weather was unseasonably hot. We expected the temperature to be in the 70's but experienced summer weather in the mid to high 90's without air conditioning. The housing consisted of a pod of single rooms with a shared bathroom. Co-ed housing is a commonality in Canada, and was a new experience for some of our students.

Students were hesitant about the conference at first. This was Deaf World. Everyone signed; 24/7 language immersion. Lectures were presented in American Sign Language (ASL), Quebec Sign Language (LSQ), and Maritime Sign Language (MSL). These languages share some commonalities, causing students to wonder which interpreter to follow. Beyond the workshops, the conference expanded our understanding of Deaf art. ASL performances included storytelling, such as Black Deaf Phenomenology and Indigenous storytelling through hoop dancing. Paintings and graphics created by Deaf individuals were also on display.

The conference lasted four days. In the heat, attending sessions became difficult at times, but the workshops and the opportunities to interact with members of the Canadian Deaf Community and Deaf professionals

from around the world were invaluable. Topics included digital sign language curriculums, signed music interpretation, navigating technology, sign language preservation, Indigenous sign languages of Canada, DeafSpace, preserving Deaf Culture and Deaf rights, and sign language competency. Among the many things that we learned, we discovered that many of the rights provided to deaf individuals in the United States (as per ADA, IDEA, and the Rehabilitation Act) do not possess equivalents in the provinces of Canada. Each province is an independent unit; laws or provisions established in one province do not affect the others.

In addition to the conference, we were able to go on excursions. We traveled on an 'Island Hopper,' a vehicle that traveled by land and sea, ate dinner down on the Boardwalk and were able to observe some of the Busker Festival, traveled on a Tall Sailing Ship, and we took the ferry to Nova Scotia Community College where we toured the campus. We were treated to lunch with staff from the Nova Scotia Community College Interpreting Program, Dr. Beverly Buchanan (whom we miss terribly), and the officers of the Canadian Deaf Society. They also taught us some Maritime Signs.

Traveling home, we had to arrive at the airport before the crow wakes. While they had to rush through customs and across international airport spaces, the students arrived home to Houston safe and sound.







COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music

*meet...*

**DR. MICHAEL BARTNIK**



Dr. Michael Bartnik currently serves as Chair of the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music at Lamar University. Before his current role, he held the position of Department Head and Associate Professor of Woodwinds at Nicholls State University.

During his tenure at Nicholls State University, Dr. Bartnik actively contributed to the academic community, serving on Faculty Senate and various university committees. He also played a pivotal role in the development of innovative courses and degree concentrations within the Department of Music. His passion for teaching extended beyond the classroom, as he conducted masterclasses at respected institutions such as the University of Maryland, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro.

Since 2009, Dr. Bartnik has been a member of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra, contributing to a chamber recording released under the Sono Luminos label. His musical journey includes principal positions with Texarkana Symphony Orchestra, Round Rock Symphony, and Acadiana Symphony Orchestra; and a frequent performer with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. Additional performances include the national Broadway tours of *Wicked*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Little House on the Prairie* as well as ensemble performances throughout Europe and chamber recitals throughout Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Q + A

**What drew you to Lamar University, and what excites you most about joining the team here?**

I think there are a lot of great things happening at Lamar currently. The alumni and donor support is great. Lamar is a well-funded university. I feel like the President, Jaime Taylor is doing a lot of wonderful things. Our faculty is also very large. At my previous institution I oversaw 10 faculty members and now I'm working with 19, and it's a really strong faculty. They're so supportive of their students.

**What is your vision for the music department at Lamar University? Are there any specific programs or initiatives you are looking to introduce or expand upon?**

Over the next 5-10 years I see a lot of opportunity for growth. There's a lot to work with here. The online graduate program we have is also fairly new, so I want to look to see how far we can expand that program, not just to the region, but to the state of Texas and beyond. But ultimately, I know that a new performing arts center is a necessity. I think that's the next step to really highlight the Department, the College and the University. I'd also like to continue to see a growth in enrollment.

**How do you plan to balance maintaining the department's traditions while also innovating and bringing in new ideas?**

I think feedback is very important. I want to continue the traditions and ideas of the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music while working with the faculty to bring new and creative ideas, events and plans to the department. I also think it's important to look to other University's Music Departments and see how we compare and what sets us apart, that way we can understand why our students ultimately choose Lamar University and how we can keep a fresh mindset as we continue to bolster enrollment.

**How do you plan to foster collaboration within the department and with other departments at Lamar University?**

Collaboration is always fun. At my previous institution, the Music Department was under the College of Liberal Arts. We shared a building with the Communications Department, the Art Department and even the Culinary Department, so we naturally bounced ideas off one another. Getting to collaborate with the Culinary Department was always fun, interesting and tasty! I think all the departments in the College of Fine Arts & Communication have excellent leadership, and I'm excited to get to know the other department chairs and see what kinds of possibilities there are for collaboration.

**What role do you see the music department playing in the local community?**

It's important to bring music to the schools and community, but it's also important to bring the community to campus. Ultimately, it's about creating and fostering those relationships.

**Final thoughts?**

I'm very happy with the support from the Dean's office. I think Dean Wright is doing an excellent job leading the College. I've also been very impressed with the sense of community that this area has. All the locals seem to support the arts in Beaumont and Lamar University. I'm looking forward to expanding on existing connections that the Music Department has.



# FROM *classroom* TO *clinic*

## PAVING THE WAY FOR FUTURE SLPAs WITH NEW PROGRAM

The Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences is proud to offer a new Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Program.

This program is available to Undergraduate students in the department who are maybe on the fence about attending graduate school or want to take some time to work in the field prior to obtaining their Masters and Doctoral degrees. "Our Undergraduate program is geared towards preparing students for the Graduate programs we offer, but we saw a need to provide an

opportunity for students who weren't quite sure what they wanted to do post-graduation. So this gives our students another opportunity. This means they can also work as an SLPA while they're in the Graduate programs and gain well-rounded clinical experience before they begin to practice as SLPs themselves," says Carmyn Thompson, CCC-SLP, Clinical Supervisor and Instructor, and Director of the SLPA Program. The year-long program began in the fall of 2023 with a cohort of three students and has since doubled with six students beginning the program this fall.

All three of the students in the first cohort were unsure about continuing their education beyond the Bachelor's degree. Through this program, all three candidates were able to learn all the pertinent skills of an SLPA along with transferable communication and recording skills. The Department is happy to announce that post-graduation, all three SLPA program graduates have been hired and are working in their chosen field as SLPAs.

"All three of them thrived. They all got jobs as soon as they graduated. That was exciting to see," says Thompson.

This program allows students to receive all necessary training, as outlined by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, to apply for their SLPA license, including clinical observation, working experience with the SLP Graduate Students and more.

"Not only is this program beneficial to our students, but it also provides the Southeast Texas community with licensed and trained SLPAs who are able to provide effective services and treatment to all ages," says Thompson.

If you or someone you know is interested in this program, application information will be available in the spring!





# SET THE STAGE

"DUMB SHOW" COMES TO THE STUDIO THEATRE



READ MORE ON PAGE 12...



Jay Sullivan, Guest Artist, Barry

Jay is honored to be invited to collaborate with the students and faculty of Lamar University. Moving to Houston in 2011, Jay appeared in more than 50 productions over 10 years as a resident company actor at the Alley Theatre, including *The Elephant Man* (Merrick), *Dracula* (Dracula), and *Peter Pan* (Peter). Before Houston, Jay spent 10 years in New York City, where his credits include the world premieres of *Dog Sees God* (Matt) and *Durango* (Red Angel/Bob) and the Tony Award winning Broadway production of *Jerusalem* starring Mark Rylance, as well as the TV series "Law & Order: SVU" and "The Good Wife". Recent Houston credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Benedick) and *Macbeth* (Banquo) for Houston Shakespeare Festival, and *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (Justin) and *Betrayal* (Robert) with Rec Room Arts. BFA Florida State University; MFA University of Houston.



Joel Grothe, Director

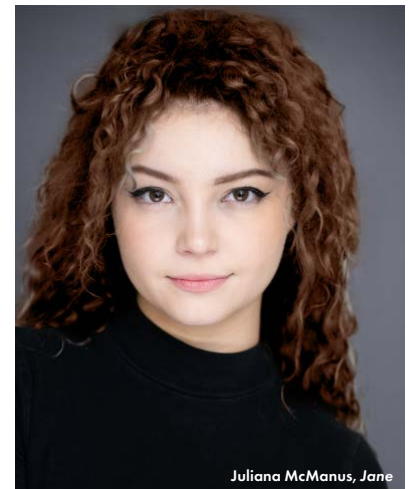
The Department of Theatre & Dance is kicking off their 2024-2025 Season with "Dumb Show."

**Barry's fifteen minutes of infamy are overdue, and when laughter's your living ...that's no joke. Courted at the end of his show by bankers John and Jane, TV star Barry believes he is to get the 5-star treatment that he deserves. However, urged to provide a candid account of his off-stage life and views, the Barry that emerges is the least of the surprises in the tense game of power and manipulation that ensues. Dumb Show is written by Joe Penhall, the playwright behind LU Theatre's Centennial production, Landscape with Weapon.**

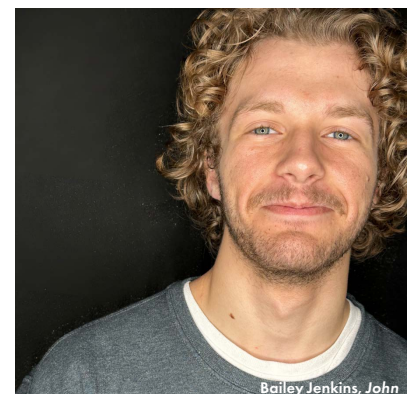
Department Chair, Joel Grothe will be directing this production. "It's great to be back directing at Lamar for the first time since I've been T&D Department Chair. It's the 15th play I've directed in 15 years and the 21st production I've been a part of," says Grothe.

Guest Artist, Jay Sullivan, will portray the role of Barry. Sullivan explains, "I am grateful to have this opportunity to work with the students, staff, and faculty here at Lamar University. I've worked with several alumni and faculty members over the years in Houston, and they have all been generous and exciting collaborators. I am beyond excited to see and share in the training which is preparing this upcoming generation of theatre professionals so well."

"It's truly a gift to have Jay joining us. His wealth of experience as a company member at the Alley Theater in Houston and working as an actor across America brings a unique kind of learning experience to our students that most programs cannot offer," says Grothe.



Juliana McManus, Jane



Bailey Jenkins, John

**September 19-21, 7:30 PM**

**September 22, 2:00 PM**

**Studio Theatre**

**Lamar.edu/lutdtix**

**Facebook/Instagram @lamarutheatredance**

**Check the next page for the full 2024-2025 Season!**





COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

Department of Theatre & Dance

2024-2025

Purchase tickets at [lamar.edu/lutdtix](http://lamar.edu/lutdtix)

## DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE SEASON

### dumb show



DIRECTED BY JOEL GROTHE

SEP 19 - 21 - 7:30 PM

SEP 22 - 2:00 PM

### peter pan



DIRECTED BY  
TANNER MCALPIN & ASHLEY  
DENNISON

OCT 31 - NOV 10

THURS - SAT - 7:30 PM

SUNDAY - 2:00 PM

### fall & recovery



FACULTY DANCE CONCERT

NOV 22 7:30 PM

NOV 23 2:00 PM | 7:30 PM

### the self destruction of emma james



WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY  
KATE BRENNAN

FEB 13 - 15 - 7:30 PM

FEB 16 - 2:00 PM

### as you like it



DIRECTED BY ALAN BRINCKS

APRIL 11 - 13 - 7:30 PM

APRIL 14 - 2:00 PM

### dance unleashed



FACULTY DANCE CONCERT

MAY 2 - 7:30 PM

MAY 3 - 2:00 PM | 7:30 PM



# *NEW* PERSPECTIVES

**DISHMAN ART MUSEUM PREPARES FOR TWO NEW EXHIBITIONS IN SEPTEMBER**

After the Faculty Exhibition closes on September 7th, the Dishman Art Museum will begin preparations for two new exhibitions.

Where the Amish Vacation, Photographs by Dina Litovsky will be on display in the First Floor Gallery from September 20th through November 4th. Every winter, Amish and Mennonite travelers from all over the United States, travel to Pinecraft, a small community in Sarasota, Florida. Starting out as a tourist camp in the 1920s, it has since become a popular vacation spot. Jokingly dubbed "Amish Las Vegas", Pinecraft is a unique place where all different denominations of Anabaptist escape the winter together and mingle amongst each other. The usual rules are a bit looser, turning a blind eye to the use of cell phones, cameras and bicycles while encouraging recreational activities.

Dina Litovsky is a Ukrainian-born photographer who has lived in New York City since 1991. Her imagery can be described as visual sociology. Litovsky's work explores the idea of leisure, often focusing on subcultures and social gatherings.

In 2020, she won the Nannen Prize, Germany's foremost award for documentary photography, for "Where the Amish Vacation."

Жити: To Live, Photographs by Patrick Patterson will be on display in the Second Floor Gallery from September 20th through November 4th. Patrick Patterson, a 2006 graduate of Lamar University with a B.S. in Communication, traveled to Ukraine in 2022 and spent 14 months documenting the war. He traversed the country from east to west, north to south, recording the effects of conflict in war-torn regions. Now back in the United States, he's sharing the stories he gathered while abroad. Through his photography, Patterson hopes to amplify the voices of everyday people living under Russian occupation.

**The opening reception for both shows will be held on Friday, September 27th from 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. Join us for light refreshments and a chance to see these amazing works.**



# BEHIND the mic...

## KVLU OPEN HOUSE DATES ANNOUNCED



KVLU would like to formally invite all College of Fine Arts & Communication faculty, staff and students to their Fall Open Houses! They will be offering tours of the station, refreshments and free KVLU swag. You will also get the chance to meet some of the voices you hear every week on 91.3, KVLU. Check below for a list of dates!

### FACULTY AND STAFF

Tuesday, September 24th, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Wednesday, September 25th, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

### STUDENTS

Tuesday, October 1st from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

**We hope to see you there!**





# CAN'T MISS THIS!

SEPT 19 — SEPT 22

**Dumb Show**  
Studio Theatre  
[lamar.edu/lutdtix](http://lamar.edu/lutdtix)

SEPT 20 — NOV 4

**Where The Amish Vacation/Жити: To Live**  
Dishman Art Museum

SEPT 26 — SEPT 27

**Brass Festival**  
St. Anthony's Cathedral Basilica  
6:30 PM-8:30 PM

SEPT 27

**OPENING: Where The Amish Vacation/Жити: To Live**  
Dishman Art Museum  
6:30 PM-8:30 PM

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FOR EVENTS IN THE  
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION  
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW!



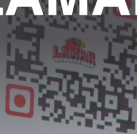
OCTOBER EDITION OF SIGHTS AND SOUNDS COMING OCTOBER 7TH





COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**



**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

**P.O. Box 10077**

**Beaumont, TX 77710**

**OFFICERS**

**STUDIES**

**SIGNS  
ARE TO  
EYES  
WHAT  
WORDS  
ARE TO  
EARS.**



**COLLABORATE - INNOVATE - CREATE**

To support the College of Fine Arts & Communication, please visit

[www.lamar.edu/cofac](http://www.lamar.edu/cofac)